

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
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HEARING SCHEDULED AND SPECIAL MASTERS APPOINTED IN
MATTER CONCERNING JUDGE KEVIN A. ROSS

On April 9, 2004, the Commission on Judicial Performance announced it had instituted formal proceedings to inquire into matters concerning Judge Kevin A. Ross, a judge of the Los Angeles County Superior Court. The hearing has been scheduled to begin on Monday, November 15, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Courtroom 2, 125 South Grand Avenue in Pasadena, California. The hearing will be open to the public.

Under the rules that govern Commission proceedings, the hearing will be conducted by special masters appointed by the Supreme Court: Justice Judith L. Haller, Presiding, Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division One; Judge Vincent J. O'Neill, Superior Court of Ventura County; and Judge Michael A. Smith, Superior Court of San Bernardino County.

At the hearing, the parties will have an opportunity to introduce evidence and examine and cross-examine witnesses. Commission Trial Counsel Jack Coyle has been designated as examiner. Judge Ross is represented by attorney Edward P. George, Jr., of Long Beach, California.

Following completion of the hearing, the special masters will provide the Commission with a report containing their findings concerning the charges. The parties will have an opportunity to respond to the report through briefing and argument before the Commission. If the Commission determines that the charges are proved by clear and convincing evidence, it is empowered to impose discipline as provided in the California Constitution. Charges that the Commission determines are not proved will be dismissed.

The Commission is composed of three judges, two lawyers, and six public members. The Chairperson is the Honorable Vance W. Raye, Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, in Sacramento, California. There is currently one public member vacancy on the Commission.

For further information about the Commission on Judicial Performance, see the Commission's Web site at www.cjp.ca.gov.